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By Bodhicarini Upasika Jayasili Jacquetta Gomes

Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada) BGKT

<https://www.buddhistgroupofkendal.co.uk/>

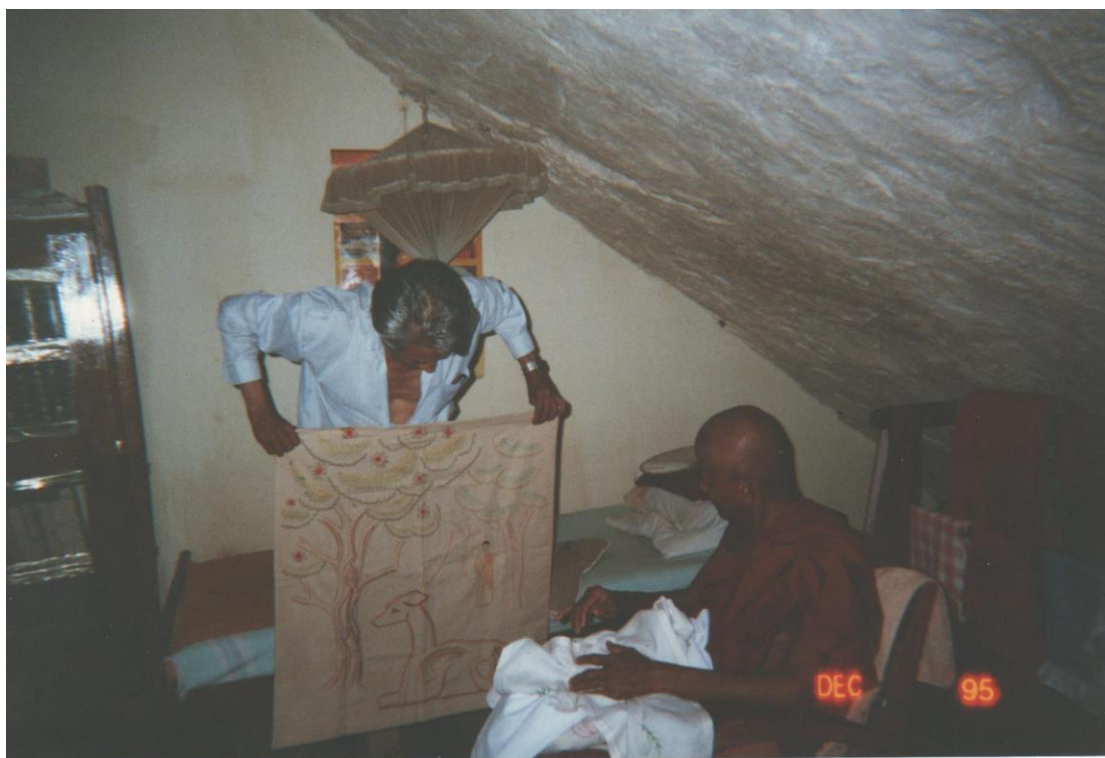
BEP Buddhist Embroidery Project

Bodhicarini Upasika Jayasili Jacquetta Gomes was one of the founders of BEP Buddhist Embroidery Project.

Venerable Apparakke Jinaratana of Sri Lanka

The BEP Buddhist Embroidery Project was started by attendees (including Jacquetta Gomes) of the LBV London Buddhist Vihara [Monastery] in 1994. The BEP decided to teach embroidery to people who had not learnt it in childhood. The late Venerable Apparakke Jinaratana, a Theravada Buddhist Bhikkhu [monk], who lived in a cave in Sri Lanka, near a very poor village, was using very old newspapers (supplied by villagers) as tablecloths. The BEP decided to embroider tablecloths, wall hangings and sitting cloths for his use. Although items are given to one monk, they actually belong to the whole of the Bhikkhu Sangha [Order of Buddhist Monks] according to the Vinaya [Buddhist Monastic Discipline]. In Asian villages, washing is done in streams and waterfalls, and hung to dry in the hot sun, so items do not last as long as they do in the west.

Anne Wynn-Wilson the late founder of the Quaker Tapestry had made the wonderful suggestion that a Buddhist Embroidery Project would be beneficial. Anne Wynn-Wilson commented, "Sharing the making of such a gift enriches both the giver and receiver" in 1994. Materials were donated by Buddhists and Quakers after requests for donations were made in *The Friend: The Quaker Weekly*, *The Devon Vihara Newsletter*, and *The Middle Way: Journal of The Buddhist Society [London]*. A photograph of the monk receiving the embroideries appeared in *The Friend: The Quaker Weekly* on 28 June 1996, and the August 1996 issue of *The Middle Way: Journal of The Buddhist Society [London]*.



Presentation of Embroideries December 1995



1992



1995



1992



1995



9 June 1995

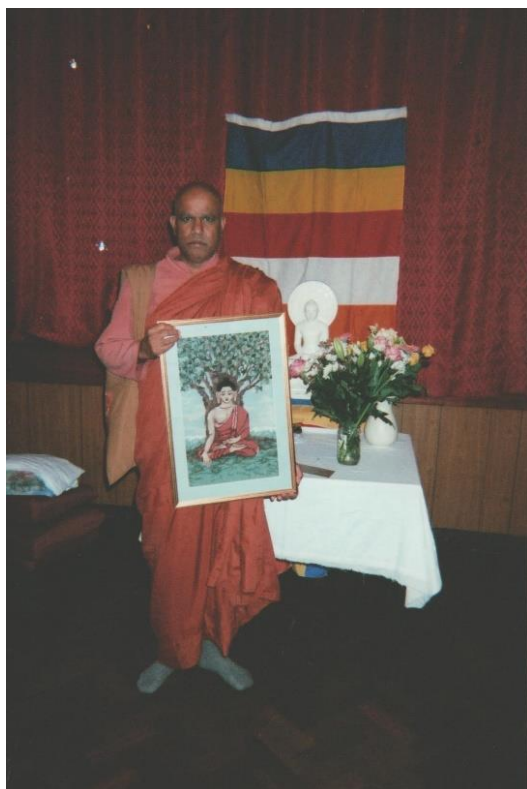
Ketumati Buddhist Vihara Manchester and BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada)

Jacquetta Gomes (one of the founders of and Secretary of BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada)) developed the Kendal BGKT BEP Buddhist Embroidery Project.

Vesak celebrations were held at Ketumati Buddhist Vihara Manchester England on 14 May 2006. BGKT members including Jacquetta Gomes, presented a tapestry of the Buddha (designed and sewn by Fiona Walker in the Kendal BGKT BEP group) to Venerable Pidiville Piyatissa Head of the Vihara. This now hangs in the main hall of Ketumati Buddhist Vihara. The plaque reads "Designed and stitched by Fiona Walker Presented to Ketumati Buddhist Vihara by The Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada) Vesak May 2006".



Ketumati Buddhist Vihara Manchester 2006



Presentation at Ketumati Buddhist Vihara Manchester Vesak 14 May 2006

Kendal Unitarian Chapel Transition Town Service Kendal England

As a member of the Kendal Unitarian Chapel's Craft Circle Jacquetta Gomes embroidered a picture of flowers for the Unitarian Chapel's Transition Town service on 8 May 2011. This embroidery subsequently hung in the Kendal Unitarian Chapel's Vestry and corridor.



Transition Town Service 8 May 2011



Transition Town Service 8 May 2011



Kendal Unitarian Chapel 14 November 2017

The World's Longest Embroidery

Jacquetta Gomes attended the Apple Day organized by the Quaker Tapestry at the Friends Meeting House Kendal on 22 October 2011. The Kendal Branch of the Embroiderers' Guild brought "The World's Longest Embroidery". She sewed a gold-coloured Buddhist Dhammacakka Wheel on this embroidery. This wheel with eight spokes (which represent the eightfold path) is often used as a symbol of Buddhism. In Theravada Buddhism the first discourse of the Buddha is the *Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta* Setting the Wheel of Dhamma in Motion.



The World's Longest Embroidery 22 October 2011

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